Allotment of Forest land to Private Parties for Development in Andhra Pradesh

2611. SHRI P PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the general criteria laid down for allotment of forest land to the private parties for its development:

(b) whether revenue is collected on such land by the State Government;

(c) the forest land given to the private parties in Andhra Pradesh during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98; and

(d) the revenue collected therefrom for these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Any scheme or project which involves assignment of forest land by way of lease or similar arrangement, for any purpose whatsoever, including afforestation, to any private person or to any authority/agency/organisation not fully owned, managed or controlled by the Government (such as private or joint sector ventures) shall attract the provision of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and therefore prior approval of Central Government is required.

(b) The condition of lease including lease rent/cost of land to be realised from the lessee are decided by the State Government. Such information is not compiled/collated by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) The information has been asked from the State Government.

Developmental Projects of N.E. Pending for Environmental and Forestry Clearance

2612. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of developmental projects pending clearance form environmental and forestry points of view for the North East region; and

(b) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Only one project in Assam namely Champamati irrigation projects, is pending for environmental clearance. This project was received in the month of May, 1998. It is under process. No other developmental project is pending for Forestry clearance.

(b) A final decision on the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time of 90 days from receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.

Power Projects of Karnataka pending for Clearance

2613. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are power projects of Karnataka State which are pending clearance with his Ministry; if so, the names thereof and the time since when these are pending clearance;

(b) the reasons for the delay, if any, in giving clearance to these projects; and

(c) the time by when these will be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) A Statement is given *(See* below)

(c) A Final decision on the project proposals is taken within a stipulated time of 90 days from receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.